GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:318
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
EMPLOYMENT FOR AGRICULTURE SCIENTISTS
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agriculture scientists passing out every year from Agriculture Universities in the country;

(b) whether India does not have enough Government establishments to absorb all of them annually; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 318 TO BE ANSWERED OI APRIL, 2002 REGARDING EMPLOYMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS.

(a) Nearly 10,000 graduates, 5,500 post-graduates and 1500 doctorates are passed out every year, out of them some opt for the scientific profession as a career.

(b) & (c): Yes Sir, India does not have enough employment opportunities in Government establishments to absorb all of them annually. Following are the Government establishments which potentially absorb them:

(i) Teaching & Research - State Agricultural Universities, ICAR Deemed to be Universities, ICAR Research Institutes.

(ii) Govt. Departments of Science, Agricultural, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture,Fisheries, Forestry, Biotechnology, Environment, Chemicals, Irrigation, Defense Services etc.

(iii) Public Sector Industries - Food Processing, Agro processing, Dairying, Fertilizers, Agro-chemicals, etc.

(iv) Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies etc.

To further expand employment opportunities, the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India has launched a Central Sector Scheme for Network of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres with the support of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and Small Farmers `Agri- Business` Consortium (SFAC). Details of the scheme are placed as Annexure-A.

Annexure A

Scheme for setting up of Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres

1. Objectives:

- To supplement the efforts for government extension system.
- To make available supplementary sources of input supply and services to needy farmers.
- To provide gainful employment to agriculture graduates in new emerging areas in agricultural sector.

2. What are Agri-clinics and Agri-business centres?

Agriclinics are those which provide expert services and advice to farmers on cropping practices, technology dissemination, crop protection from pests & diseases, market trends and prices for various crops in the markets and also clinical services for animal health etc., which would enhance productivity of crops/animals.

Agribusiness centres are those which provide input supply, farm equipments on hire and other services.

3. Who is eligible?

The scheme is open to Agriculture Graduates/ Graduates in subjects allied to agriculture like horticulture, veterinary science, animal husbandry, forestry, dairy, poultry farming, pisciculture and other allied activities.

4. What project activities can be covered?

- Soil and water quality cum inputs testing laboratories(with atomic absorption spectro photometers).
- Pest surveillance, diagnostic and control services.
- Maintenance, repairs and custom hiring of agricultural implements and machinery including micro irrigation systems (sprinkler and drip).
- Agri Services Centres including the three activities mentioned above (group activity).
- Seed processing units.
- Micro-propagation through plant tissue culture labs and hardening units.
- Setting up of Vermiculture units, production of bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, bio-control agents.
- Setting up Apiaries(bee keeping) and honey and bee products processing units.
- Facilitation and agency for agriculture insurance services.
- Hatcheries and production of fish/finger-lings for aqua culture.
- Provisions of livestock health cover, setting up veterinary dispensaries & services including frozen semen banks and liquid nitrogen supply.
- Setting up of Information Technology Kiosks in rural areas for access to various agriculture related portals.
- Feed processing and testing units.
- Value addition centres.
- Setting up of Cold Chain facilities from the farm level onwards (group activity)
- Post Harvest Management Centres for sorting, grading, standardization, storage and packaging.
- Setting up of metallic/non-metallic storage structures (group activity).
- Retail marketing outlets for processed agri-products.
- Rural marketing dealerships of farm inputs and outputs.

Any combination of two or more of the above viable activities along with any other economically viable activity selected by the Graduates, which is acceptable to the Bank.

5. Salient features of the scheme

a) Project cost & coverage:

The project can be taken up by Agriculture Graduates either individually or on joint/group basis. The outer ceiling for the cost of project by individual would be Rs. 10 lakh and for the project by group would be Rs. 50 lakh. The Group may normally be of 5, of which one could be a management graduate with qualification or experience in business development and management.

b) Margin Money (Down payment)

i) Upto Rs. 10,000/- No Margin
ii) Over Rs. 10,000/0 15% to 25% of project cost

c) Rate of interest:

The details of the rate of interest to be charged by the financing bank to the ultimate beneficiary are given below:

Size of Loan	Rate of interest to ultimate beneficiary		
	Commercial Bank	Regional Rural Banks	Cooperative Bank
Upto Rs. 25,000	As determined by the bank subject to max of PLR of the bank	As determined by the bank	As determined by the SCB subject to minimum of 12%
Above Rs. 25,000 upto Rs. 2 lakh	Do	Do	Do
Above Rs. 2 lakh	As determined by the bank	Do	Do

d) Security:

Where movable assets are created	Upto Rs. 25000	Hypothecation of assets.
	Over Rs. 25000	Hypothecation of assets and mortgage of land+ or third party guarantee.
Where movable assets are not created	Over Rs. 10000	Mortgage of land+

+ Mortgage of land of banks discretion.

Where there are genuine difficulties in the creation of charge on lands, wherever required banks could take third party guarantee or such other security as considered appropriate.

e) Repayment:

The period of loan will vary between 5-10 years depending on the activity. The repayment period may include a grace period (to be decided by the financing bank as per the individual scheme) of a maximum of two years.

Selection of borrowers:

The selection of borrowers and location of the projects may be done by the banks in consultation with State Agricultural University/LVLs/Agriculture Dept of State Govt etc. in their area of operations, if necessary.

6. Terms and conditions of refinance from NABARD:

a) Mode of refinance:

Refinance will be extended under Automatic Refinance Facility (ARF) as well as schemes with prior sanction depending upon the project outlay and amount of refinance. For availing automatic refinance facility, the outer limit of the project cost would be Rs. 25 lakh subject to ceiling of Rs. 15 lakh towards refinance availment. Projects with outlay above Rs. 25 lakh are required tobe submitted to NABARD for prior sanction.

b)Quantum of refinance:

100% of the bank loan.

c) Rate of interest on refinance:

As decided by NABARD from time to time. The present rates of interest on refinance applicable are

Size of limit	CBs	RRBs	SCBs/SCARDBs
Upto Rs. 25,000	7.5%	7.5%	7.0%
Over Rs. 25,000	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%

d) Margins Money assistance from `Soft Loan Assistance Fund` of NABARD:

A maximum of 50% of the margin prescribed by banks, to meet the shortfall in borrower`s contribution, if any, where the bank is satisfied that the prospective borrower is unable to meet the margin money requirements, could be given by NABARD. Such assistance/ loans to banks will be without any interest but the banks may charge a service charge of 3% p.a. from the borrower.

e) Eligibility norms:

Eligibility to draw refinance by banks will be determined as per instructions issued by NABARD from time to time.

7. General:

All other terms and conditions, banking procedure and lending norms which are normally applicable to project lending and schematic refinance mutatis mutandis will also be applicable to financing of Agriclinics and agribusiness centres.